

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Antoline on September 10, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended.) A sampling container, comprising:

a body;

a closed body end perforated by an aperture having a first self-sealing valve disposed thereacross;

an open body end; and

a cap having cap aperture and a second self-sealing valve disposed thereacross, said cap disposed within said open body end and attached thereto in a gas tight seal;

said first and second self-sealing valves each comprises a spring-loaded plunger slidably disposed therein and biasing an end of the plunger against a gasket in a normally closed position;

said container adapted for being mounted for fluid collection in a sampling apparatus, said self-sealing valves being normally closed and being opened by mounting said container in such apparatus[.];

wherein the sampling apparatus comprises
a plurality of chucks into which said first and said second self-sealing valve may be disposed creating a gas tight seal, said plurality of chucks capable of opening said first and second self-sealing valves.

20. (Currently amended.) The sampling container of Claim 1 wherein there ~~are two self sealing valves, one in the open end and one in the closed end,~~ said first and second self-sealing valves disposed coaxially in said container, and each valve having a slidable plunger biased in a normally closed position.

Claims 5 and 19 have been cancelled.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nashmiya S. Fayyaz whose telephone number is 571-272-2192. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron E. Williams can be reached on 571-272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. S. F./
Examiner, Art Unit 2856
/Hezron Williams/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2856